



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

April 27, 2018

To: Governor's Office, Sheena Wilson, State Capitol, Room 204, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Director's Office	Parks Division	Lands Section
FWP Commissioners	Fisheries Division	Legal Unit
Wildlife Division	Design & Construction	

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202

MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103

MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620

James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624

George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624

Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771

Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624

Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923

Jack Jones, 3014 Irene St., Butte, MT 59701

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The enclosed Decision Notice has been prepared for the proposed granting of a road easement through Blacktail Meadows Fishing Access Site (FAS) to provide access to adjacent private property located on the west side of Blacktail Deer Creek. In exchange for the road easement, the private landowner proposes to donate approximately 1.15 acres in fee title along Blacktail Deer Creek to FWP to provide additional legal access to the Creek from Blacktail Meadows FAS. FWP would gain 50,094 square feet of land, which includes an additional 465 feet of Blacktail Deer Creek frontage. In exchange, FWP would grant a road easement of approximately 11,326 square feet. The adjacent private landowner would construct an access road and bridge over the creek on the easement to access the adjacent 25 acres of private land.

FWP received (10) comments regarding the proposed action during the 30-day public comment period; these three comments supported the proposal.

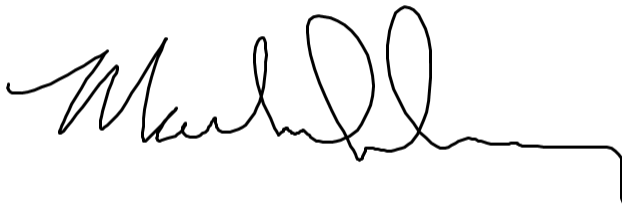
Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with the Preferred Alternative action as described in the Blacktail Meadows Fishing Access Site Proposed Easement and Acquisition Draft Environmental Assessment.

Questions regarding this Decision Notice should be directed to:

Ray Heagney
Fishing Access Site Manager
1400 S 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-994-6987
Or emailed to : rheagney@mt.gov

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Deleray', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Deleray
Region Three Supervisor



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DECISION NOTICE

Blacktail Meadows Fishing Access Site Proposed Easement and Acquisition Draft Environmental Assessment

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region Three, Bozeman
April 25, 2018**

Proposed Action

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to grant a road easement through Blacktail Meadows Fishing Access Site (FAS) to provide access to adjacent private property located on the west side of Blacktail Deer Creek. In exchange for the road easement, the private landowner proposes to donate approximately 1.15 acres in fee title along Blacktail Deer Creek to FWP to provide additional legal access to the Creek from Blacktail Meadows FAS. FWP would gain 50,094 square feet of land, which includes an additional 465 feet of Blacktail Deer Creek frontage. In exchange, FWP would grant a road easement of approximately 11,326 square feet. The adjacent private landowner would construct an access road and bridge over the creek on the easement to access the adjacent 25 acres of private land.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess significant potential impacts of a proposed action to the human and physical environment. In compliance with MEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for the proposed project by FWP and released for public comment on March 23, 2018.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken from March 23 through April 23, 2018. The EA was mailed to 58 groups and individuals.

Summary of Public Comment

FWP received (10) comments regarding the proposed action; all ten comments supported the proposal.

Comments supporting the proposed project: ten (10) total.

Example of Comment Statements Supporting the Proposal

- "I would like to state my opinion, I think the acreage exchange for the road easement onto Swenson way would benefit the community of Dillon and improve the fishing access site."
- "I feel the easement on Swenson Way would be great for Dillon and would improve the fishing access."
- "I truly believe this project will be beneficial for Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, the Dillon community and the many visitors who come to Beaverhead County."
- "We believe this to be a contribution in abundance & it will greatly improve the fishing access site for citizens, visitors & sportsmen."
- "I believe the proposed project will enhance the FAS by allowing a larger area for fishing along the creek as well as making a roadway for local access to the Dillon community."
- "It's nice to see a proposal that works so well for all parties involved."
- "I think it would be nice to see something happen down in that stretch of ground and it looks to me like a win-win for everybody."
- "The Beaverhead County Planning Department supports the proposed Blacktail Meadows FAS easement and acquisition of additional land adjacent to the current Blacktail Meadows FAS."
- "I would like to express my positive opinion on the proposed action of granting a road easement through Blacktail Meadows Fishing Access site to adjacent private property located on the West side of Blacktail Deer Creek."
- "I support Alternative B, the Proposed Action to grant a road easement through Blacktail Meadows FAS to provide access to adjacent private property located on the west side of Blacktail Deer Creek."

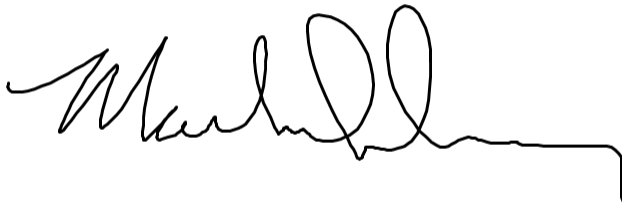
No Comment opposing the proposed project.

Decision

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with the Preferred Alternative action as described in the Blacktail Meadows Fishing Access Site Proposed Easement and Acquisition Draft Environmental Assessment.

Appeal

This project is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to the FWP Director (Martha Williams, Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701) in writing and postmarked within 30 days of the date on this Decision Notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, explain how the appellant has previously commented to the department or participated in the decision-making process, and lay out how FWP may address the concerns in the appeal. If you have questions regarding this Decision Notice, please contact Ray Heagney, Fishing Access Site Manager at 406-994-6987.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Deleray', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Mark Deleray
Region Three Supervisor
